

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 VO-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3395

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 3032

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, PFOR, CVIS, RO

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF EMIGRATION SITUATION: TO U.S.

REF: STATE 154732

1. GENERAL ASSESSMENT. SINCE MAY 14 THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN RECEIVING PERIODIC LISTS OF APPROVALS FOR EMIGRATION TO U.S. THE VOLUME OF APPROVALS HAS ACCELERATED SINCE PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S RETURN FROM HIS BRIEF VISIT TO WASHINGTON. ROMANIAN OFFICIALS AT THE WORKING LEVEL NOW APPEAR ANXIOUS TO RESOLVE PENDING EMIGRATION CASES, 706 APPROVALS FOR DEPARTURE HAVE COME SINCE MAY 14. NEVER-

THE LESS, PROBLEMS REMAIN: TRANSFORMATION OF APPROVALS INTO ACTUAL ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS HAS BEEN SLOW, LARGELY BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETING LEGAL FORMALITIES. PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS, BOTH HERE AND IN

WASHINGTON, IS A CAUSE FOR MINOR DELAY BECAUSE OF US LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

ALTHOUGH 104 CASES ON OUR MARCH REPRESENTATION LIST HAVE NOW BEEN APPROVED

BY GOR, THE EMBASSY STILL HAS 324 CASES INVOLVING AN ESTIMATED 538 PERSONS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN RESOLVED. THIS NUMBER REPRESENTS UNRESOLVED

CASES FROM OUR MARCH LIST, AS WELL AS CASES THAT HAVE BEEN REGISTERED WITH EMBASSY SINCE THAT DATE. IT APPEARS GOR SEEMS

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CLEARLY BENT AT THIS JUNCTURE IN MOVING TOWARDS RESOLUTION OF

ALL OUTSTANDING CASES.

2. APPROVALS, AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO IMMIGRANT VISA (IV) ISSUANCES. LISTED BELOW ARE TOTAL NUMBER OF APPROVALS (STPE ARE ALSO APPROVALS FOR VISITS (APPROXIMATELY 60) WHICH GOR HAS INDISCRIMINATELY LUMPED TOGETHER WITH EMIGRATION CASES), AND DATES WHEN THESE WERE RECEIVED FROM MFA.

DATE PERSONS

MAY 14 40

MAY 23 60

JUNE 18 242

JUNE 24 133

JUNE 24 105

JUNE 26 60

JULY 1 66

TOTAL 706

3. FOLLOWING ARE TOTAL NUMBER OF PASSPORTS AND IV ISSUED DURING SAME PERIOD:

MAY 14-MAY 30 20 IVS

JUNE 27 IVS

1 PPT (TO DUAL NATIONAL)

JULY 1 1 IVS

TOTAL 49 IVS AND 1 PPT

ALTHOUGH DUAL NATIONAL ISSUANCE SEEMS VERY LOW, THE GOR HAS ASSURED US THESE CASES WILL BE PROCESSED AS QUICKLY AS IV CASES. DUAL NATIONAL FIGUCKH WILL OF COURSE BE LOWER BECAUSE ONLY (PRINCIPAL) IN THE FAMILY IS AMCIT - THE OTHER MEMBERS OF FAMILY RECEIVING IVS.

4. GIVEN DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF APPROVALS COMPARED TO AMOUNT OF VISAS ISSUED TO DATE, BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO FLAG FOR DEPARTMENT REASONS FOR THIS SITUATION. TRUST THIS INFORMATION WILL ALSO BE USEFUL IN EXPLAINING DISCREPANCY TO CONGRESS.

2* REASONS FOR DELAYS ARE NUMEROUS. MANY APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR DEPARTURE ARE SIMPLY NOT PREPARED TO TRAVEL IMMEDIATELY. IN ANY CASE, ALL MUST LIQUIDATE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS IN COUNTRY BEFORE THEY ARE GIVEN PHYSICAL POSSESSION
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OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.

6. HOMEOWNERS, IN PARTICULAR, FACE SERIOUS PROBLEM. THEY MUST SELL OR "DONATE" THEIR HOUSE TO STATE AT FIXED PRICE FOR WHICH MAXIMUM COMPENSATION IS ONLY 40,000 LEI. MANY OF SAME HOMES WERE ORIGINALLY BOUGHT FOR SUMS RANGING FROM 100,000-200,000 LEI. NEVERTHELESS, APPROVED EMIGRANTS ARE OBLIGATED TO REPAY SUCH LOANS IN FULL VALUE BEFORE LEAVING

ROMANIA.

7. AFQTHR CATEGORY OF APPROVED EMIGRANTS WHO EXPERIENCE LONG DELAYS ARE THOSE WHOSE RELATIVES LEFT ROMANIA ILLEGALLY, OR FAILED TO RETURN AFTER AN AUTHORIZED VISIT. HISTORICALLY, ROMANIAN PRACTICE HAS BEEN TO DENY SUCH PERSONS PASSPORTS UNTIL THEIR RELATIVES ABROAD HAVE REGULARIZED THEIR STATUS BY APPLYING FOR WHAT AMOUNTS TO A PARDON AT A ROMANIAN EMBASSY. PROCEDURE IS CUMBERSOME INASMUCH AS SUCH REQUEST MUSTNDE FORWARDED TO BUCHAREST, AND MAY TAKE AS LONG AS 6 MONTHS OR A YEAR TO BE ACTED UPON.

8. IF THE RELATIVES ABROAD HAVE BEEN SENTENCED IN ABSENTIA (THIS OCCURS WHEN PERSONS FAIL TO RETURN FROM OFFICIAL MISSIONS) THE SENTENCE IS COMMUTED INTO CASH PAYMENT WHICH THE PERSON MUST PAY BEFORE HE CAN REGULARIZE HIS STATUS ABROAD.

9. PROBLEMS OF THE ABOVE TYPES ONLY BECOMSC VIDENT ONE OR TWO MONTHS AFTER APPROVAL IS ANNOUNCED AND THE PASSPORT IS NOT FORTHCOMING. WE HAVE ASKED APPROVED APPLICANTS TO INFORM EMBASSY IF THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED PASSPORT ONE MONTH AFTER APPROVAL, BUT REASON FOR DELAY IS NOT ALWAYS GIVEN TO APPLICANT BY LOCAL PASSPORT AUTHORITIES. AN ESTIMATED 20-30 PERCENT OF APPLICANTS PROBABLY WILL EXPERIENCE DELAYS FOR REASONS OUTLINED IN PARAS 6, 7, AND 8.

10. OTHER FACTORS: PROCESSING APPLICANTS IS TIME CONSUMING. IN ACCORDANCE WITH U.S. VISA REGULATIONS, EMBASSY NEEDS A MINIMUM OF 15 WORKING DAYS AFTER APPROVED APPLICANT HAS APPEARED AT EMBASSY TO OBTAIN SECURITY CLEARANCES REQUIRED IN EE COUNTRIES. TO DATE THIS HAS NOT POSED SERIOUS PROBLEM, BUT MAY BECOHQ FACTOR AS VOLUME OF QUALIFIED IMMIGRANTS INCREASES. EMBASSY IS DOING PRELIMINARY PROCESSING AS SOON
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AS PPROVED APPLICANT MAKES HIS APPEARANCE AT CONSULAR SECTION EVEN IF HE DOES NOT YET HAVE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS IN HIS POSSESSION.
WE HAVE ALSO BEEFED UP CONSULAR OPERATION WITH ADDITIONAL OFFICER AND SECRETARIAL HELP TO SPEED FHOW OF WORK.

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 VO-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05

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O 031510Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3396

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUCHAREST 3032

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11. INELIGIBLES: APPROXIMATELY 30 PERSONS APPROVED BY GOR FOR DEPARTURE TO US HAVE COME TO CONSULAR SECTION SINCE MAY 14 WHO ARE INELIGIBLE FOR IMMIGRATION DIRECTLY TO US UNDER SECTION 212(A)14 OF IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT OF 1952. THESE PEOPLE HAVE NO CLOSE RELATIVES WHO CAN FILE VISA PETITIONS FOR THEM IN THE US, AND THEY ARE BARRED FROM ENTRY INTO US BECAUSE THEY WOULD ENTER THE LABOR MARKET. EMBASSY SENDING SEPTTEL GIVING AMPLIFICATION OF THIS PROBLEM.

12. EMBASSY BELIEVES FACTORS ENUMERATED ABOVE WILL CONTINUE TO ACT AS BRAKE ON IV ISSUANCE FOR MONTH OF JULY. IN FACT, PROJECTED ISSUANCE, BASED ON REQUESTS FOR QUOTA NUMBERS, IS ONLY 40 VISAS. EMBASSY DOES NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, OF NUMBER OF IVS CLIMBING BETWEEN 60-80 IF APPROVED APPLICANTS ARE ABLE TO DISENCUMBER THEMSELVES OF COMPLEX LEGAL FORMALITIES REQUIRED FOR DEPARTURE MORE PROMPTLY THAN IN PAST. THERE ARE A FEW SIGNS THAT GOR IS MOVING IN DIRECTION TO SIMPLIFY DEPARTURE REQUIREMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, TOTAL NUMBER OF ISSUANCES FOR JULY WILL ONLY BE A PORTION OF THOSE APPROVED FOR DEPARTURE BY ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES TO DATE.

13. PENDING CASES. ON JULY 1 EMBASSY PRESENTED A LIST OF ALL OUTSTANDING CASES TO CONSULAR DIRECTORATE OF MFA. A COPY OF THIS LIST IS BEING AIRPOUCHED TO DEPT ON JULY 3.

14. THIS LIST CONTAINS 150 IV CASES, TOTALING 338 PERSONS, AND 74 CASES OF DUAL NATIONALS AND THEIR FAMILIA, TOTALING CONFIDENTIAL

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200 PERSONS. THE LIST INCLUDES ALL CASES REGISTERED AT EMBASSY AT COB JUNE 23, PLUS UNRESOLVED CASES ON EMBASSY'S MARCH 1 REPRESENTATIONAL LIST. (AS OF JUNE 23, 106 CASES ON THAT MARCH LIST HAD BEEN APPROVED.)

15. APPROXIMATELY 60 CASES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO LIST ON WHICH THERE HAD BEEN NO ACTIVITY PRIOR TO 1973. APPLICANTS HAVE NOW REACTIVATED THEIR CASES BY APPEARING AT EMBASSY IN EXPECTATION THEY MIGHT FINALLY RECEIVE GOR APPROVAL FOR DEPARTURE. AS A RESULT, JUNE 23 LIST IS LARGER THAN MARCH 1 LIST.

16. ON JUNE 26, MFA CONSULAR DIRECTORATE OFFICIALS IOAN LOGHIN AND STELIAN MATEI, IN MEETING WITH CONSOFF, REVIEWED EVERY NAME ON NEW LIST AND PROMISED THAT EACH CASE WILL BE INVESTIGATED. ALL THOSE ON LIST PREVIOUSLY UNABLE TO APPLY FOR DEPARTURE WILL NOW BE ALLOWED TO DO SO.

17. DURING SAME SESSION, CONSOFF AGAIN SOUGHT ASSURANCES THAT APPROVALS REPRESENTED A DE FACTO COMMITMENT BY GOR TO ALLOW EMIGRATION IN THOSE CASES. HE WASSOLD APPROVALS REPREENT PLEDGE BY GOR THAT APPROVED PERSONS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE COUNTRY JUST AS SOON AS THEY COMPLETE NECESSARY LEGAL FORMALITIES.

18. WHEN CONSOFF POINTED OUT THIS LATTER QUALIFICATION MIGHT RESULT IN LENGTHY DELAYS, MFA REITERATED GOR INTENTION TO ALLOW THESE PERSONS TO EMIGRATE TO US. OFFICIALS OFFERED MFA ASSISTANCE TO ANY APPROVED APPLICANTS WHO ENCOUNTERED UNDUE DELAYS, WHEN SUCH DELAYS WERE CALLED TO ITS ATTENTION BY EMBASSY.

19. ON BASIS OF THESE AND EARLIER DISCUSSIONS, EMBASSY BELIEVES DEPT MAY GIVE ASSURANCES DURING CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS THAT GOR MADE DE FACTO COMMITMENT TO ALLOW EMIGRATION TO PERSONS ALREADY APPROVED FOR DEPARTURE FROM ROMANIA, WITH CAVEAT THAT IN EACH INSTANCE INTENDING EMIGRANT MUST FULFILL ALL PRE-DEPARTURE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS BEFORE HE IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE.

20. PROBLEM OF JEWISH EMIGRATION COVERED SEPTTEL.
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